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EXAMINER				
ZHONG, JUN FEI				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/800,397

Applicant(s)

SHARMA, ALOK

Examiner

JUN FEI ZHONG

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12-17 and 22-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12-17 and 22-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, 3-10, 12-17, and 22-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, and 22-40 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

There are not detail descriptions of the drawings in the disclosure (e.g., how each element works and connects together). The examiner suggests amending the specification with the claims language. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 16-17, 22-26 and 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barham et al. (Patent # US 6721371 B1) in view of Yasuda (Patent # US 6466913).

As to claim 1, Barham discloses a method for provisioning multiple digital receivers, comprising:

providing an analog to digital converter (e.g., analog to digital converter 102; Fig. 18) having an analog input and a digital output (see col. 3, lines 50-56);

providing a plurality of digital receivers (e.g., demodulators 10; Fig. 18), each receiver having a programmable center frequency (e.g., reconfigurable FIR filter center frequencies) (see col. 6, lines 56-63),

where the plurality of digital receivers are configured to receive digitized samples from the analog to digital converter and where each of the plurality of digital receivers includes a low-pass digital filter (e.g., the digitized samples are coupled to each demodulators 10 through demultiplexer 103; each demodulator 10 includes reconfigurable FIR filter 14; Fig. 1b, 18) (see col. 5, lines 49-60; col. 6, lines 56-63);

each set corresponding to one of the plurality of low-pass digital filters (i.e., there are multiple demodulators 10 in Fig. 18, and each demodulator 10 has a reconfigurable FIR filter 14 in Fig. 1b. The system Barham discloses inherently has a set of coefficients for an FIR filter; different sets of coefficients would load into the FIR filter in order to change the characteristic of the FIR filter (reconfigurable). Therefore, the system Barham discloses inherently has multiple sets of coefficients, and each set corresponding to one FIR filter), each filter having one of a predetermined set of bandwidths (e.g., each FIR filter has a preset bandwidth for filtering signals) (see col. 3, line 43 through col. 6, line 63);

receiving a request to provision a selected one of the plurality of digital receivers (e.g., receive pointer information; pointer 124 points to a demodulator) (see col. 4, line 58-col. 5, line 9; Fig. 19);

Barham does not specifically disclose maintaining filter coefficients in storage.

In an analogous art, Yasuda discloses maintaining pre-computed sets of filter coefficients in non-volatile storage (e.g., coefficient ROM 202, 302; Fig. 3, 4) (see col. 5, lines 39-42; col. 6, lines 52-62; col. 16, lines 9-21),

selecting a first center frequency and first bandpass bandwidth for provisioning the selected one of the plurality of demodulators digital receivers (e.g., CPU 301 selects coefficients to transmit to each FIR filter 312a, 312b, 322a, 322b; Fig. 4; i.e., when a set of coefficients is selected for an FIR filter, the transfer function of the FIR filter is known, and the center frequency and bandpass bandwidth also known) (col. 7, lines 1-9);

retrieving the filter coefficients associated with the first bandpass bandwidth (e.g., CPU 301 transmits coefficients to each FIR filter 312a, 312b, 322a, 322b; Fig. 4) (see col. 7, lines 1-9);

subjecting the retrieved filter coefficients to a bandpass transformation corresponding to the first center frequency (e.g., CPU 301 controls the coefficients transmission) (see col. 7, lines 1-9);

loading the transformed filter coefficients into coefficient latches in the selected one of the plurality of digital receivers (e.g., loading a set of coefficients to FIR filter buffer; Fig. 4) (see col. 7, lines 1-9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have coefficients storage as taught by Yasuda to the FIR filter of Barham in order to provide an FIR filter that is capable filtering variety of frequency ranges by change the coefficients, without change the hardware.

As to claim 3, Barham discloses the method of claim 1, further including:
reconfigurable FIR filter (see col. 4, line 11 through col. 6, line 63);

Yasuda discloses operating the selected one of the plurality of digital receivers at the first center frequency (e.g., CPU 301 selects coefficients for each FIR filter 312a, 312b, 322a, 322b; Fig. 4) (col. 7, lines 1-9);

subsequent to said operating, loading the coefficient latches in the selected one of the plurality of digital receivers with transformed coefficients corresponding to a

second center frequency (e.g., e.g., CPU 301 selects different coefficient set to each FIR filter 312a, 312b, 322a, 322b; Fig. 4) (see col. 6, lines 52-62; col. 7, lines 1-9); and operating the selected one of the plurality of digital receivers at the second center frequency (e.g., loading modified FIR coefficients to FIR filter buffer) (see col. 7, lines 1-9).

As to claim 4, Barham discloses the method of claim 3, further including:
reconfigurable FIR filter (see col. 4, line 11 through col. 6, line 63);

Yasuda discloses selecting a second center frequency and second bandpass bandwidth for provisioning a second one of the plurality of digital receivers, wherein said first and second bandpass bandwidths are unequal (e.g., different sets of FIR coefficients are representing different bandpass bandwidths);

retrieving the filter coefficients associated with the second bandwidth;
subjecting the retrieved filter coefficients to a bandpass transformation corresponding to the second center frequency; and

loading the transformed coefficients into coefficient latches in the second one of the plurality of digital receivers (e.g., loading modified FIR coefficients to FIR filter buffer) (see col. 7, lines 1-9).

As to claim 8, Barham discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the analog to digital converter, the plurality of digital receivers, and storage (e.g., registers or memory)

are implemented on a single integrated circuit (e.g., bank or array of IC demodulators 10) (see col. 3, lines 53-55; col. 4, lines 45-50; col. 5, lines 49-57).

Yasuda discloses non-volatile storage (e.g., ROM 202, 302; Fig. 4)

As to claim 16, Barham discloses the method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of digital receivers includes a finite impulse response (FIR) digital filter (see col. 3, lines 51-55; col.5, lines 49-52).

As to claim 17, the method of claim 16, wherein each FIR filter is an Optimum Equiripple Linear-Phase filter (i.e., this is a matter of design choice as known to those ordinary skill in the art of filter design).

As to claims 22-23, the claimed number of the filter coefficients for each filter is at least 16 (claim 22) and is at most 24 (claim 23) is also a matter of design choice, which is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art of filter design, in addition to, as is well known in the art, tradeoffs must be made between passband ripple (less is better), stopband attenuation (more is better), for a fixed number of coefficients. Therefore, the number of coefficients selected by the inventor or designer is relative to the type of tradeoff benefits the designer would like to gain or lose as described above.

As to claims 24-26 and 36-40, the claims are met by the rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 8, 16-17 and 22-23, as described above

6. Claims 5-7, 13, 27-29 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barham et al. (Patent # US 6721371 B1) in view of Yasuda (Patent # US 6466913), and further in view of Quigley et al. (Patent # US 6650624).

As to claim 5, note the discussion above, Barham discloses a high speed demodulator system (see col. 4, line 11 through col. 6, line 63).

Both Barham and Yasuda fail to disclose CMTS.

Quigley discloses a CMTS channel bank organized into upstream and downstream channels (e.g., a plurality of demodulators 700a-700n, which receives modulated data input from a plurality of cable modems via a common transmission medium. The demodulators 700a-700n provide a demodulated data output for the frequency division multiplexed (FDM) upstream channels via which data is transmitted from the plurality of cable modems to the CMTS) (see col. 37, lines 29-45; Fig. 26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the CMTS as taught by Quigley to the FIR filter of Barham as modified by Yasuda in order to enhance the data rate and/or reliability of upstream communications (see col. 3 lines 29-32).

As to claim 6, the claimed ratio of the number of upstream channels demodulated by the CMTS channel bank to a number of upstream input connectors of the CMTS

channel bank is M (i.e., this is a matter of design choice as appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art in the design of CMTS architecture).

As to claim 7, the claimed method of claim 6, wherein M is 16 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 6, since the claim has similar scope as claim 6.

As to claim 13, the claimed CMTS is DOCSIS compatible (i.e., it is well known in the art of cable modem technology that a CMTS is DOCSIS compatible).

As to claims 27-29 and 33, the claims are met by the rejection of claims 5-7 and 13, as described above.

7. Claims 14-15 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barham et al. (Patent # US 6721371 B1) in view of Yasuda (Patent # US 6466913), and further in view of Peyrovian (Patent # US 768682).

As to claim 14, note the discussion above, Barham discloses a high speed demodulator system (see col. 4, line 11 through col. 6, line 63).

Both Barham and Yasuda fail to disclose upstream channels are in the 750-1000 MHz, which is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art of transmitting data over cable service.

Peyrovian discloses the upstream channels are in the 750- 1000 MHz portion of the spectrum (see col. 3, lines 38-53)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the 750-1000 MHz portion of the spectrum as taught by Peyrovian to the FIR filter of Barham as modified by Yasuda because the high frequency band is typically much less susceptible to noise than the low frequency band that has traditionally been employed to carry the upstream information. Further, the frequency band of 750-1000 MHz has a much greater bandwidth than the low frequency band (see col. 3 lines 38-53).

As to claim 15, regarding the claimed at least one frequency stacker is used to densely pack each sub-band of the 750-1000 MHz spectrum portion (Official Notice is taking that it is well known in the art of data transmission over cable service to densely pack each sub-band of a given radio frequency (RF) spectrum portion (i.e. 750-1000 MHz) using at least one frequency stacker, for the advantage of efficiently using each sub-band in the given frequency spectrum so that the maximum amount of sub-bands in the spectrum may be used for sending data over the cable line. Therefore, it is submitted that it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used at least one frequency stacker to densely pack each sub-band of the 750-1000 MHz spectrum portion for the advantage given above).

As to claims 34-35, the claims are met by the rejection of claims 14-15, as described above.

8. Claims 9-10, 12, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barham et al. (Patent # US 6721371 B1) in view of Yasuda (Patent # US 6466913), further in view of Quigley et al. (Patent # US 6650624), and in further view of the Applicant's admitted prior art in Fig. 17(A).

As to claim 9, the claimed CMTS channel bank is organized using a plurality of modules, each module having a plurality of downstream channels and a plurality of upstream channels is met by the admitted prior art Fig. 17(A), that discloses a CMTS channel bank with a module of downstream connectors for channels and 16 upstream connectors for channels and there are 8 modules in the bank, which directly corresponds to the claimed features. The claimed features are not patentable in view of the disclosure of the admitted prior art.

As to claim 10, the claimed number of the upstream channels is 4 times a number of the downstream channels is met by admitted prior art Fig. 17(A), that discloses a CMTS channel bank with a module of 16 upstream connectors for channels and 4 downstream connectors for channels and there are 8 modules in the bank, which directly corresponds to the claimed features. The claimed features are not patentable in view of the disclosure of the admitted prior art.

As to claim 12, the claimed CMTS channel bank has 4 times as many upstream channels as downstream channels is met by admitted prior art Fig. 17(A), that discloses a 32 downstream by 128 upstream CMTS channel bank, which directly corresponds to the claimed feature. The claimed feature is not patentable in view of the disclosure of the admitted prior art.

As to claims 30-32, the claims are met by the rejection of claims 9-10 and 12, as described above.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ramnaud et al. (Patent # US 6980592) is cited to teach storing filter coefficients in volatile or non-volatile memory.

Webb (Patent # US 6427157) is cited to teach storing sets of filter coefficients in memory.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jun Fei Zhong whose telephone number is 571-270-1708. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JFZ/
8/22/2008

/Vivek Srivastava/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623